

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 061810Z MAY 75

FM U S MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2679

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3265

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, PLO, AORG, PFOR

SUBJECT: ILO: PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS

REF: A) GENEVA 1467; B) GENEVA 2999

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH

1. SUMMARY. ILO/DG BLANCHARD, AT URGING OF AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN, HAS ASKED PLO REPRESENTATIVE WHETHER PLO WOULD MAKE GESTURE OF RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL IF PLO IS GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS AT ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE IN JUNE. PLO RESPONSE WAS OPAQUE REFERENCE TO "FORMULA" USED FOR PLO PARTICIPATION IN HUMANITARIAN LAW CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY AND REPORTEDLY FAMILIAR TO US REPS (ALDRICH AND BAXTER). BLANCHARD WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING MORE ABOUT THIS FORMULA. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ILO/DG BLANCHARD (WHO WILL RETURN TO GENEVA MAY 12), ILO LEGAL ADVISER FRANCIS WOLF CONVEYED FOLLOWING TO LABATT. WOLF SAID THAT IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE, HAD SUGGESTED TO DG LAST WEEK THAT AFL-CIO REACTION TO A CONFERENCE DECISION TO GIVE OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO "MIGHT BE QUIET" IF: (1) MATTER WERE HANDLED WITHOUT POLITICAL FANFARE AND (2) IF PLO MADE STATEMENT WHICH RECOGNIZED STATE OF ISRAEL. BLANCHARD (WHO ALREADY INSTRUCTED BY GOVERNING BODY TO HAVE STANDING BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS BY CONFERENCE; SEE REF A) THEN CONTACTED

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BARAKAT, PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA. DG OUTLINED

LIKELY SCENARIO AT CONFERENCE FOR HANDLING PLO REQUEST (SEE PARA 3, REF B). BLANCHARD SAID THAT MANY ILO MEMBER STATES, WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS WERE CONCERNED THAT PLO MIGHT USE THE ILO FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY, THAT PLO MIGHT ATTACK A MEMBER STATE, ISRAEL. BLANCHARD SAID THAT IT WOULD BE REASSURING IF THE PLO WERE TO MAKE A STATEMENT RECOGNIZING ISRAEL. BARAKAT REPLIED THAT PLO HAD NO DESIRE TO RAISE POLITICAL ISSUES IN ILO BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO "REFER TO UN RESOLUTIONS." IN RECENT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN VIENNA AND AT HUMANITARIAN LAW CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, PLO PARTICIPATION HAD BEEN ARRANGED QUIETLY AND WITHOUT A POLITICAL FUSS. BARAKAT REFERRED TO PARTICIPATION "FORMULA" DEvised BY "GROUP OF FIVE" AT HUMANITARIAN LAW MEETING AND SAID THAT BAXTER AND ALDRICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING "FURMULA." WOLF CLOSED BY SAYING THAT IN LIGHT OF DESIRE FOR LOW-KEY SCENARIO ON PLO ISSUE IN JUNE, US MIGHT WISH TO CHECK OUT BARAKAT REFERENCE TO PARTICIPATION FORMULAE. WHILE NOT ESSENTIAL TO ILO CONTACT WITH PLO HERE, DG FELT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF US LET HIM KNOW MORE ABOUT THESE PARTICIPATION FORMULAE.

3. BEFORE HE LEFT GENEVA ON MAY 3, IRVING BROWN TOLD LABATT THAT BLANCHARD HAD REACTED WITH ENTHUSIASM TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT BLANCHARD TRY TO GET COMMITMENT FROM PLO TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL IN RETURN FOR OBSERVER STATUS IN ILO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHAT FORM THIS RECOGNITION SHOULD TAKE, BROWN REPLIED THAT "WAS UP TO PLO."

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM WOLF'S PRESENTATION, PLO REP DID NOT AGREE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL NOR DID HE REJECT THE IDEA. MISSION IS UNAWARE OF DETAILS OF PARTICIPATION "FORMULA." VIENNA REFERENCE MAY BE TO UN CONFERENCE ON REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ILO INTEREST IN AVOIDING POLITICAL FIREWORKS ON PLO AT JUNE CONFERENCE IS SAME AS OURS AND SINCE BLANCHARD WILL BE IN FURTHER TOUCH WITH BARAKAT, MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER ALLOWING US TO PASS INFORMATION, IF ANY, ON PLO PARTICIPATION "FORMULA" TO BLANCHARD.ABRAMS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETING OBSERVERS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GENEVA03265  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750158-1023  
**From:** GENEVA  
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**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 GENEVA 1467, 75 GENEVA 2999  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILO: PLO REQUEST FOR OBSERVER STATUS  
**TAGS:** AORG, PFOR, XF, ILO, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006